(Copy of reply to Dr. D. K. Pearsons)

May 9, 1908.

Dr. D. K. Pearsons,
Hinsdale, Ill.

Dear Sir:

I thank you for your kind ~~an~~ consideration of my appeal in behalf of Middlebury College, and I gladly reply to your questions.

Our productive endowment is $420,000.00. We spent last year $28,153.37, and this is about our yearly budget.

We have eleven (11) teachers, i.e., the President, eight (8) full Professors, and two (2) instructors. Two additional instructors are engaged for next year.

I am certain that the College is needed, and absolutely sure that it will live. Otherwise I should not have given up flattering prospects in the ministry to cast in my lot with its fortunes. It is as fixed in the green hills as Camel's Hump and Killington, being anchored by $233,000.00 worth of stone and marble buildings, and by the enthusiastic loyalty and love of hundreds of friends, mostly poor, but all rich in courage.

No Church controls the College, but it is Congregational in sympathy, its Presidents for over 100 years having been Congregational clergymen. The students are obliged to attend prayers daily, and the Church of their choice on Sunday.

We have had co-education for 25 years, since 1883. The admission of women is a fixed policy, and will not be retracted.

I expect to raise much more than $100,000 in the next few years. I think I am a good beggar. I started a Church with nothing, and in fifteen years left it with a property of $35,000, free of debt, having raised also $6000 a year for current expenses and over $23,000 for missions.

I suggested $50,000, not as our total need, but as what I hope you will see your way to give for education in your native State. We should have at least $250,000.00 for a

Woman's College, and if you will give me a start, I will set out to get it. But I plead with you for $50,000.00 now, to meet the pressing need of a building for our girls to live in, some central place to gather for their social life, and to allow us to employ a Dean or Matron to look after them. They are now scattered in the homes of the village, and we have no one to supervise them, except the teachers who have already all they should do in their work for the men.

Marble is cheap in Vermont, and for the sum named we will erect a building that will do you lasting honor, and will be a blessing to hundreds of girls who otherwise would be without opportunity of higher education. Such a gift now would make you the virtual founder of our work for women, as hitherto we have had no gifts especially for a woman's college.

It is true that the University of Vermont is near us, but it is also true that we can get all the girls we can take care of. They come to us not only from Vermont, but also from Mass., New York, and Conn., being shut out of colleges nearer them by prohibitory expenses. Besides the emphasis at Burlington is on the courses in Medicine, Engineering, and Agriculture: in strictly college work we have more students to-day than they have. The two institutions are working in harmony, pursuing different lines, and there is abundant room for both. Middlebury is not inaccessible to the largest centers of population in the United States, and these centers, not Vermont alone, are her field.

I am 38 years old, have good health, and am full of ambition for my Vermont college. I am going into it as my life-work. The wisest men I can find approve my course and say I have a great opportunity. I have much to do for the men also, but for the immediate needs of the girls I am looking to you with earnest hope.

Faithfully Yours,

John M. Thomas (signed)

(Please return.)